

# **IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MARYLAND PHARMACY PROGRAM RECIPIENTS WHO HAVE *MEDICARE***

## **BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2006, *MEDICARE* WILL MAKE AVAILABLE A PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT FOR *MEDICARE* RECIPIENTS**

You currently get your prescription drugs through the Maryland Pharmacy Program. **Beginning January 1, 2006, *Medicare*** will offer prescription drug coverage through a new *Medicare* prescription drug plan (PDP).

**After December 31, 2005, the Maryland Pharmacy Program will no longer provide prescription benefits for persons who have Medicare.**

### **What you Must Do to get Extra Help from *Medicare* with your Prescription Drug Coverage**

If you have low income and resources (including your savings and stocks, not counting your home), you may qualify for extra help from *Medicare* to cover your premiums, co-pays, and deductibles that will be charged by your prescription drug plan.

To apply for the extra help, you will receive an application this summer. You must fill in and send your application back to the Social Security Administration (SSA). If you have questions or need help, you can call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or the Maryland Department of Aging at 1-800-243-3425.

Beginning **July 1, 2005**, you may also apply for the extra help by using the Internet at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

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## **What You Must Do To Get Prescription Drug Coverage From Medicare**

You **must** join a *Medicare* prescription drug plan.

Watch your mail in **October 2005** for your “Medicare and You 2006” handbook. It will list the drug plans in your area.

The *Medicare* Prescription Drug Plans in your area will also contact you about joining their plan. Remember to check with the plan to make sure that it can meet your prescription drug needs.

If you need help choosing a *Medicare* prescription drug plan after you get your “Medicare and You 2006” handbook, you can call *Medicare* at 1-800-633-4227. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You may also ask for assistance from the Maryland Department of Aging by calling 1-800-243-3425.

Information about the new drug plan is also available on the web at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).